

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02242 01 OF 02 141955Z

41

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9933

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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SUBJECT: FOOD AVAILABILITY: WESTERN RSFSR AND BELORUSSIAN
PROVINCIAL CITIES

1. SUMMARY. TWO EMBOFFS, VISITING THREE CITIES IN THE
WESTERN RSFSR (TULA, OREL, BRYANSK) AND TWO IN BELORUSSIA
(GOMEL', MOGILEV), FEBRUARY 3 THROUGH 8, FOUND GOOD AVAIL-
ABILITY OF SAUSAGE (KOLBASSA), BUT LITTLE FRESH MEAT EXCEPT
FOR PIG HEADS. THERE WAS GOOD AVAILABILITY OF POTATOES,
BEETS, AND RADISHES, AND SOME ORANGES, APPLES (BAD QUALITY)
AND LEMONS. THERE WERE LARGE QUANTITIES OF A WIDE VARIETY
OF BOTH FROZEN AND CURED FISH EVERYWHERE AND AMPLE QUANTITIES
OF ALL DAIRY PRODUCTS EXCEPT MILK. EGG AVAILABILITY WAS
SPOTTY, AND EGGS MOSTLY IMPORTED FROM EASTERN EUROPE.

BREAD

WAS AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE IN LARGE QUANTITY ALTHOUGH LOWER
GRADES PREDOMINATED. NUMEROUS SIGNS STRESSED THE NEED TO
CONSERVE BREAD. FRESH FOWL AND GOOD QUALITY APPLES WERE
AVAILABLE ONLY IN THE KOLKHOZNIY RYNOK. BEEF AND
PORK WERE AVAILABLE IN ALL HOTELS, NONE OF THEM IN-
TURIST OPERATED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING REPORT IS BROKEN DOWN BY CITY AND IS
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02242 01 OF 02 141955Z

GIVEN CHRONOLOGICALLY. ALL PRICES ARE GIVEN IN RUBLES

AND KOPEKS PER KILOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

3. TULA, FEBRUARY 3. AT 1230 PM IN A LARGE GASTRONOM AT 85 KRASNOARMEYSKIY PROSPEKT, THERE WAS FISH (ZHEK) AT R. 0.70 PER KILO AND FISH FARSH AT 0.90. THERE WERE LONG LINES FOR FATTY HAM AT 3.70 A KILO, AND FOR SAUSAGE. A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STORE AT 35 KRASNOARMEYSKIY OFFERED GOOD QUANTITIES OF SMALL CARROTS AT 0.20 PER KILO, BEETS AT 0.10, AND GREEN ONIONS AT 0.60 (THESE WERE THE ONLY GREEN ONIONS SEEN ON THE TRIP). LEMONS WERE AVAILABLE AT 0.35 EACH, AND POOR APPLES AT 0.80. AT LEAST 30 HOPEFUL CUSTOMERS WERE IN A QUEUE FOR GRAPES AT 1.30 (THE ONLY GRAPES SEEN ON THE TRIP). AT 1330, IN GASTRONOM NUMBER 31 AT 8, KRASNOARMEYSKIY, THERE WERE SEVERAL KINDS OF FROZEN FISH AT PRICES RANGING FROM 0.32 TO 0.70 PER KILO, IN GOOD QUANTITY. THERE WERE LIMITED SUPPLIES OF FRESH PORK OF POOR QUALITY AT 2.10, HOGS HEADS AT 0.35, AND A SHORT LINE FOR THE LARGE QUANTITIES OF BEST QUALITY LYUBITEL'SKAYA SAUSAGE AT 2.90. GOOD QUANTITIES OF VARIED KINDS OF BREAD (BLACK AND WHITE) WERE ON SALE IN THIS STORE. IN ANOTHER GASTRONOM AT NO. 2 LENIN SQUARE, BEST GRADE LYUBITEL'SKAYA SAUSAGE WAS AGAIN AVAILABLE AT 2.90 IN GOOD QUANTITIES WITH NO LINE. THE SAME STORE SHOWED A LARGE VARIETY OF CURED AND FROZEN FISH AT PRICES RANGING FROM .32 TO .70. QUANTITIES WERE GOOD AND THERE WAS NO LINE. ON FEBRUARY 4, AT 0930, IN A MEAT STORE AT NUMBER 18 LENINSKIY PROSPEKT, THERE WERE "KOTLETTI" (BREADED HAMBURGER PATTIES) AT 1.20, AND EGGS AT 1.05 FOR 10. (THESE WERE THE ONLY EGGS OBSERVED ON SALE IN TULA.) NEITHER FOWL NOR BEEF WAS ON SALE IN ANY OF THE SHOPS VISITED. GOOD QUANTITIES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS OF ALL SORTS EXCEPT FRESH MILK WERE ON SALE EVERYWHERE IN TULA.

4. OREL, FEBRUARY 4. A GASTRONOM AT 25, ULITSA LENINA, VISITED AT 1700, OFFERED A GOOD SELECTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS AND ALSO ZHIR, BUT NO MEAT. THE BAKERY ACROSS THE STREET AT NO. 24 HAD BREAD OF MANY VARIETIES AND QUALITIES WITH EXCELLENT AVAILABILITY AND NO LINES. A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOP AT 11, ULITSA LENINA HAD SMALL APPLES FOR 1.30 AND BEETS (9.19), RADISHES (0.08) AND SMALL POTATOES (0.10) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02242 01 OF 02 141955Z

ALL IN GOOD QUANTITIES. SALTED MACKEREL WAS ON SALE AS WELL AT 1.50. THE FISH STORES AT 3, ULITSA KARL MARKS, WHICH WAS VISITED AT 1800, HAD DRIED MACKEREL AT 1.50 AND 1.70 AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF FROZEN FISH AT PRICES FROM 0.40 TO 0.90. GASTRONOM NO. 2 AT 8, ULITSA KARL MARKS, VISITED AT THE SAME TIME, HAD FAIR QUANTITY OF FATTY HAM AT 3.50, TWO KINDS OF PRE-FLOURED (READY FOR COOKING) FISH AT 1.03 AND 1.24, PIG HEADS (0.35), PIG BONES FOR SOUP AT 0.40

GROUND PORK (IN PACKAGES AT 1.10 AND FROZEN FISH AT 0.50 AND 0.90. NO EGGS OR CHICKENS WERE SEEN ON SALE IN OREL.

5. BRYANSK, FEBRUARY 5. A GASTRONOM AT 19, ULITSA FOKINA, IN THE CENTER OF TOWN, OFFERED, AT 1530, FROZEN, PRE-PACKAGED BEEF (BONY AND OF POOR QUALITY) AT 1.55, BUT IN ADEQUATE QUANTITIES. GROUND BEEF WAS AVAILABLE IN 250 GRAM PACKAGES AT 0.46 EACH AND READY TO COOK PATTIES AT 1.00. FROZEN CHICKEN WAS AVAILABLE AT 3.60, AND THERE WERE GOOD SUPPLIES OF EGGS AT 1.05 FOR 10. LARGE QUANTITIES OF FROZEN FISH WERE OFFERED AT 0.50 TO 0.90 WHILE DRIED OR SALTED FISH WAS ALSO AVAILABLE AT PRICES FROM 9.40 FOR HERRING TO 2.50 FOR SEL'DI. THE FATTY HAM OBSERVED ELSEWHERE WAS ON SALE HERE AT 3.50 AND THERE WERE LARGE QUANTITIES OF A PORK LOAF AT 2.10. A "GASTRONOMY" COUNTER HAD AMPLE SUPPLIES OF CHOICE PRE-COOKED SAUSAGE AT 4.10. THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOP NO1, AT 4, ULITSA GOR'KOVO HAD SMALL QUANTITIES OF SMALL POTATOES AT 0.10, SOME SLEEPY APPLES AT 1.20, BUT ALSO HAD TWO GRADES OF FROZEN DUCK ON SALE, FAIR QUANTITIES AT 1.20 AND SMALL QUANTITIES AT 2.10. BREAD STORE NUMBER 8 AT 88, ULITSA KALINA HAD LARGE QUANTITIES OF BREAD, ESPECIALLY DARK, ON SALE AS LATE AS 1630. ON FEBRUARY 6 AT 1020 THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STORE AT 2. ULITSA ROMENTSINA HAD GOOD QUANTITIES OF BEETS (0.12, CARROTS (0.15), RADISHES (0.10) AND POTATOES (0.12). LEMONS WERE 0.25

3-:#. NO CUSTOMERS. A DAIRY STORE AT 4, ULITSA ROMENTSINA, IN ADDITION TO A GOOD SELECTION OF CHEESE, HAD MILK ON SALE, BUT NO EGGS. A GASTRONOM AT 14, PROSPEKT LENINA WAS VISITED AT ABOUT NOON. THERE WAS GOOD QUANTITY OF MEDIUM QUALITY BEEF AT 1.95, AND BEEF HAMBURGER AT 1.84. THERE WERE SEVERAL SORTS OF FISH INCLUDING ZHEK AT 0.90, AND SPINK AT 1.10, SARDINES AT 2.50, WHITEFISH AT 1.50 AND MACKEREL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 02242 01 OF 02 141955Z

AT 1.78. THE SAUSAGE COUNTER WAS WELL-STOCKED WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF KOLBASA AT 2.80, LIVERWURST AT 0.50 (NO TAKERS), AND THE USUAL FATTY HAM AT 3WP AND 3.50.

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02242 02 OF 02 141928Z

41

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MOSCOW 2242

6. BRYANSK KILKHOZNIY RYNOK. THE CENTRAL MARKET (ULITSA YERMOLUTIN) WAS VISITED AT 1100. THE MEAT STALLS WERE ALMOST EMPTY, THOUGH FATTY BACON COULD BE BOUGHT FOR 3.00, AND THERE WAS SOME PIG MEAT AT 2.50 AND PIG HEADS AT 0.35. FRESH-KILLED DUCK WAS AVAILABLE AT 2.10. THERE WERE TWO GEESE AND ONE RABBIT ON SALE. TWO GRADES OF PRE-PACKAGED FROZEN BEEF WERE AVAILABLE, AT 1.55 AND 1.95 IN GOOD QUANTITIES, WHILE STEW BEEF AT 1.90 AND BEEF HAMBURGER AT 1.80 WERE AVAILABLE. THERE WAS A LONG LINE FOR THE MODERATE SUPPLY OF PORK CHOPS AT 2.30. EGGS IN FAIR QUANTITY WERE ON SALE AT 1.30 FOR TEN. (EMBOFFS WERE TOLD THAT THE RYNOK HAD THAT DAY RECEIVED 60 BOXES OF POLISH EGGS (600 EGGS PER BOX).) LARGE QUANTITIES OF GOOD-SIZED POTATOES WERE 0.25 AND GOOD ONIONS WERE 3.00 (THESE WERE THE ONLY ONIONS SEEN ON THE TRIP). LARGE, UNBLEMISHED APPLES WERE 2.60 AND SMALL GREEN ONES WERE 1.00. THERE WERE SMALL QUANTITIES OF TANGERINES, ORANGES AND POMEGRANATES. WALNUTS (IN THEIR SHELL) WERE 4.00

7. GOMEL' FEBRUARY 7. PERHAPS BECAUSE IT WAS SATURDAY MORNING, ALL STORES WERE FULL OF SHOPPERS. AT 1050 GASTRONOME NO. 1 AT 11 ULITSA POBEDY CARRIED THE USUAL ASSORTMENT OF SALTED AND FROZEN FISH AND GOOD QUANTITIES AT PRICES RANGING FROM .30 TO 1.10. THE MEAT STALLS OFFERED ONLY SOUP

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02242 02 OF 02 141928Z

BONES IN SMALL QUANTITIES AND PIGS FEET IN LARGE QUANTITIES, BUT NEITHER WITH POSTED PRICES. DAIRY PRODUCTS EXCEPT MILK WERE ABUNDANT, AS WAS BREAD OF NUMEROUS TYPES. A SMALL DIET STORE AT NO. 5 ULITSA POBEDY HAD EGGS IN GOOD QUANTITY FOR .95 PER TEN. A SMALL MEAT AND FOWL STORE AT NO. 40 ULITSA SOVETSKAYA HAD EGGS FROM POLAND IN GOOD QUANTITY AT 1.01. 034

10. THE MEAT COUNTERS OFFERED THIRD QUALITY SAUSAGE FOR .40 AND LIVERWURST FOR .50, BOTH IN AVERAGE QUANTITY, AND PIGS FEET FOR .20 IN LARGE QUANTITY. A FISH STORE AT 31 ULITSA LENINA HAD LARGE SUPPLIES OF CURED, FROZEN AND CANNED FISH AT NORMAL PRICES RANGING FROM .50 TO 1.20. IN ADDITION THIS STORE OFFERED FILLETS OF COOKED STURGEON AT 9.68 AND HAD MANY TAKERS. THE UROZHAI VEGETABLE AND FRUIT STORE AT NO. 16 ULITSA PUSHKIN, VISITED AT 1140, HAD A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE WAITING TO BUY GOOD SUPPLIES OF ORANGES FROM EGYPT AND MOROCCO, WHILE THE SAME STORE OFFERED LEMONS AT .35 EACH IN FAIR QUANTITY. THERE WERE LOTS OF EGGS AT .95 FOR 10. VEGETABLES INCLUDED RADISHES AND BEETS, EACH FOR .10 IN GOOD SUPPLY AND TWO GRADES OF POTATOES AT .10 AND .12 IN FAIR QUANTITY. ANOTHER VEGETABLE AND FRUIT STORE AT 27 ULITSA LENINA, VISITED JUST BEFORE CLOSING AT 1400, HAD LOTS OF SMALL POTATOES AT .10 AND QUANTITIES OF BAD APPLES AT 1.30.

8. MOGILEV, FEBRUARY 8. VEGETABLE STORE NO. 2 AT 48 ULITSA PERVOMAISKAYA (VISITED AT 1220), HAD GOOD QUANTITIES OF CARROTS AT 0.12 AND BEETS AT 0.10 AND FAIR QUANTITIES OF SMALL POTATOES AT 0.10. LEMONS WERE 0.25 EACH. THE LARGE SELF-GASTRONOM AT NO. 50 ULITSA PERVOMAISKAYA WAS ALMOST SOLD OUT OF EGGS AND HAD A LONG LINE FOR THOSE FEW LEFT, OFFERED FATTY BACON AT 2.50, LARD AT 1.90, THE ONE REMAINING PIG HEAD AT 0.35, AND WAS SOLD OUT OF PORK CHOPS THAT HAD BEEN 2.00. THERE WAS RATHER MEDIOCRE FROZEN BEEF AT 1.20, AND ASIDE FROM THE USUAL ASSORTMENT OF FISH (DRIED AND FROZEN) THERE WAS FROZEN OKEAN AT 2.20. A LONG LINE OF PEOPLE WERE WAITING FOR THIRD GRADE LIVERWURST AT 0.50 AND BETTER GRADE AT 1.00. OTHER SAUSAGE (KOLBASSA) WAS AVAILABLE IN FAIR QUANTITIES. AN "AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS" STORE AT 39, PROSPEKT MIRA (1345) HAD NO MEAT, BUT DID HAVE FAT AT 2.50, BAD APPLES AT 1.40 AND FROZEN APPLES AT 0.70 - THE LATTER APPARENTLY FOR COOKING. A MEAT STORE (NO. 100) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02242 02 OF 02 141928Z

AT 40, ULITSA PERBOMAYSKAYA, VISITED AT 1430. HAD PIGS HEADS AT 0.35, A SMALL QUANTITY OF FAT PORK CHOPS AT 2.00 AND FAIR QUANTITIES OF PROCESSED HAM AT 3.10. THE MAIN "BELOSUR" GASTRONOM, 30 ULITSA PERVOMAISKIY, WAS VISITED AT 1540. THERE WERE LONG LINES FOR GOOD QUALITY BEEF AND PORK, BOTH IN GOOD QUANTITY AT 1.90 AND 2.00. PIG HEADS WERE 0.35. THERE WERE TWO GRADES OF GOOD BACON FOR SALE AT 2.50 AND 3.10, FAT AT 2.50, AND LIVERWURST AT 0.54. THIS SHOP HAD THE BEST SELECTION OF MEAT OF ANY SEEN ON THE TRIP. ITS HUNGARIAN EGGS HAD ALL BEEN SOLD OUT BY THE TIME IT WAS VISITED. THERE WAS GOOD SELECTION OF BREADS BOTH AT THAT STORE AND AT THE BREAD STORE ACROSS THE STREET AT NUMBER 27. A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STORE AT 19, ULITSA PERVOMAYSKIY, VISITED

AT 1615, HAD LARGE QUANTITIES OF LEMONS (0.25 EACH), BEETS AT
.10 AND POTATOES AT 0.09. THE FISH STORE AT 17 ULITSA
PERVOMAYSKIY HAD, BESIDE THE USUALLY AVAILABLE SELECTION,
GOOD SMOKED WHITEFISH AT 1.20, AND GOOD SARDINES AT 1.19.
A SMALL GASTRONOM ON PLOSHCHADI POBEDY STILL HAD A FEW EGGS
AT 1730, LIVERWURST AT 0.50 AND SMALL QUANTITIES OF SALAMI
AT 3.50.
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